BLITZ PHOENIX

Chapter 7: New Lease

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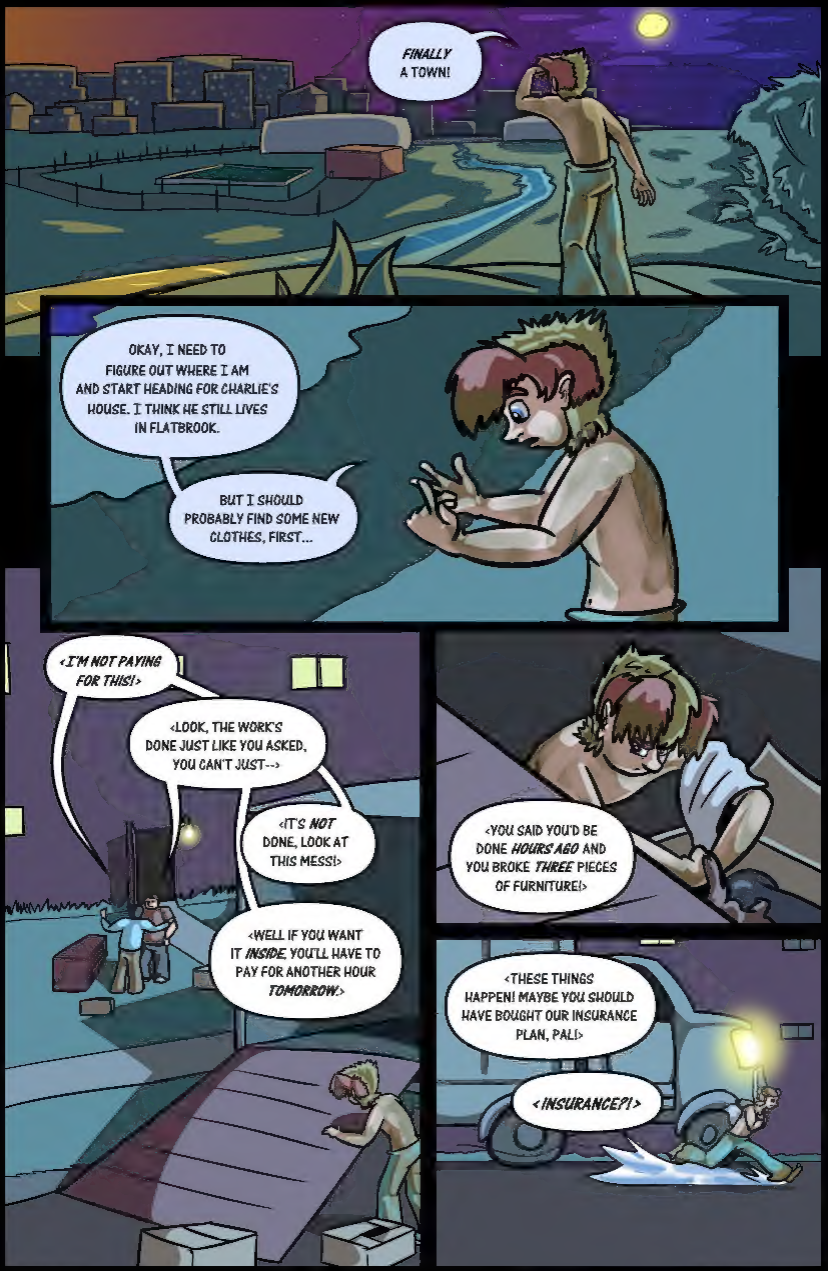
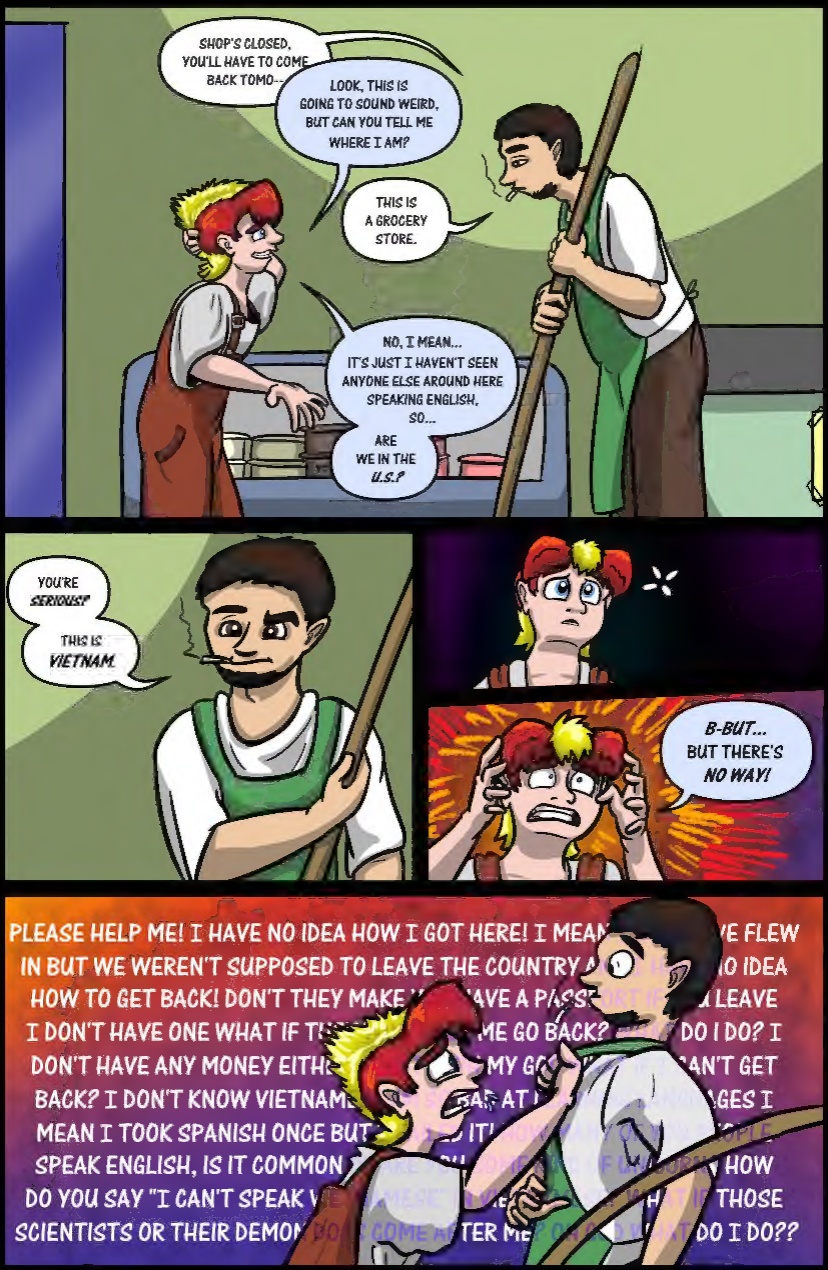
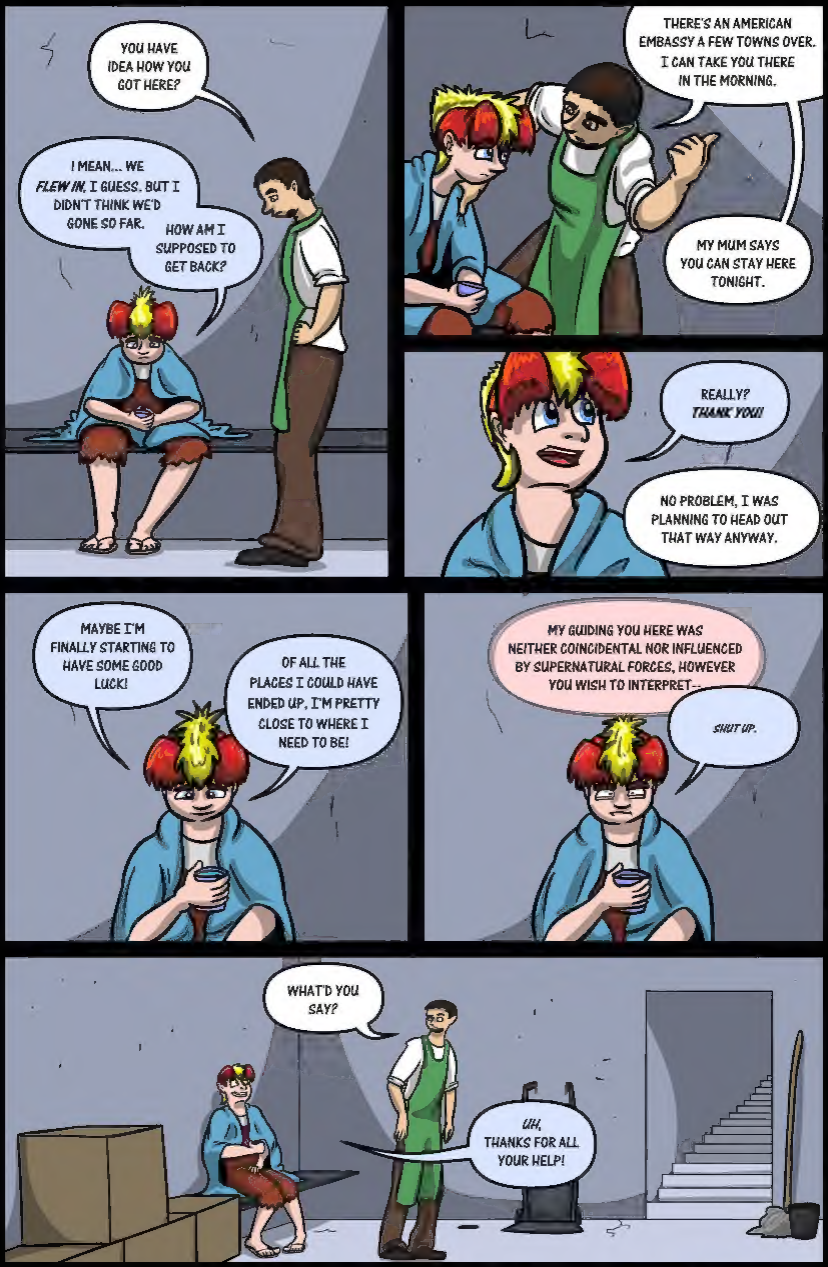
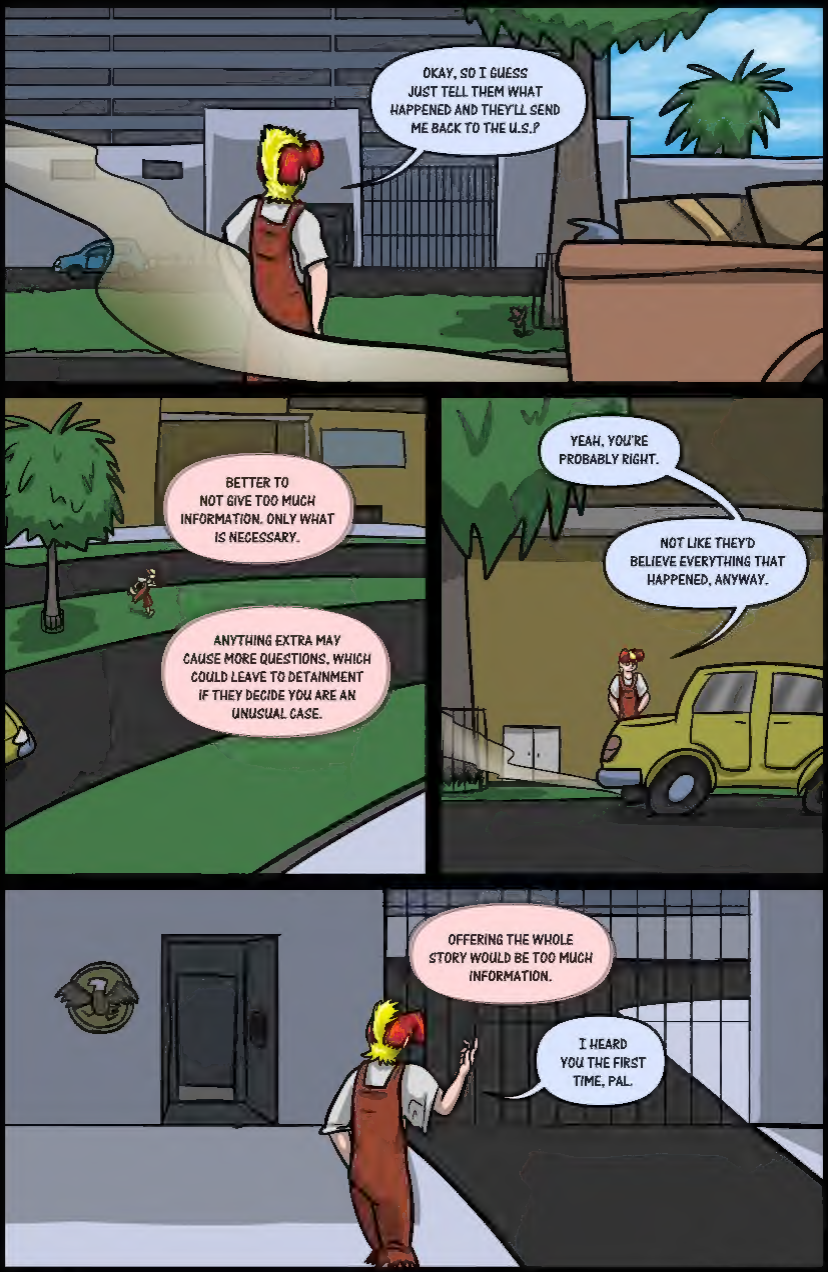

FINALLY A TOWN!
OKAY, I NEED TO FIGURE OUT WHERE I AM AND START HEADING FOR CHARLIE'S HOUSE. I THINK HE STILL LIVES IN FLATBROOK.
BUT I SHOULD PROBABLY FIND SOME NEW CLOTHES, FIRST...
<I'M NOT PAYING FOR THIS!>
<LOOK, THE WORK'S DONE JUST LIKE YOU ASKED, YOU CAN'T JUST-->
<IT'S NOT DONE, LOOK AT THIS MESS!>
<WELL IF YOU WANT IT INSIDE, YOU'LL HAVE TO PAY FOR ANOTHER HOUR TOMORROW.>
<YOU SAID YOU'D BE DONE HOURS AGO AND YOU BROKE THREE PIECES OF FURNITURE!>
<THESE THINGS HAPPEN! MAYBE YOU SHOULD HAVE BOUGHT OUR INSURANCE PLAN, PAL!>
<INSURANCE?!>

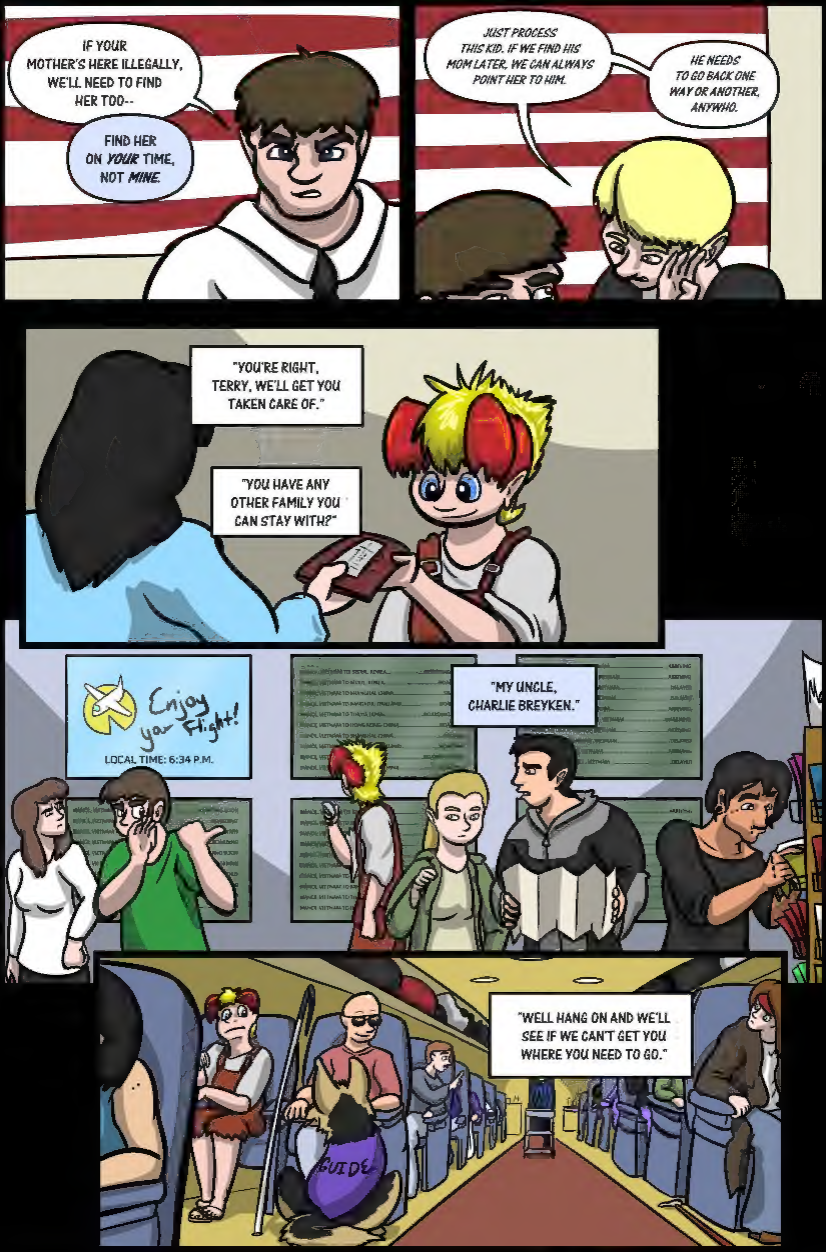
I DON'T KNOW WHAT LANGUAGE THOSE GUYS WERE SPEAKING, BUT IT WASN'T ENGLISH.
THEY WERE HAVING A DISAGREEMENT ON FURNITURE.
YOU COULD UNDERSTAND THEM?
I HAVE DICTIONARIES AND GRAMMAR RULES FOR SEVERAL LANGUAGES.
SPLISH
WELL WHICH ONE WAS THAT?
VIETNAMESE.
WHAT?
THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT!
Cửa Hàng Tạp Hóa Nhỏ
Small Grocery
DING DING
<WE'RE CLOSING SOON.>
UH... DO YOU SPEAK ENGLISH?
YAN!
<THERE'S A WEIRD WESTERN BOY HERE! FIND OUT WHAT HE WANTS!>


SHOP'S CLOSED, YOU'LL HAVE TO COME BACK TOMO--
LOOK, THIS IS GOING TO SOUND WEIRD, BUT CAN YOU TELL ME WHERE I AM?
THIS IS A GROCERY STORE.
NO, I MEAN... IT'S JUST I HAVEN'T SEEN ANYONE ELSE AROUND HERE SPEAKING ENGLISH, SO... ARE WE IN THE U.S.?
YOU'RE SERIOUS?
THIS IS VIETNAM.
B-BUT... BUT THERE'S NO WAY!
PLEASE HELP ME! I HAVE NO IDEA HOW I GOT HERE! I MEAN
YE FLEW
IN BUT WE WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY
O IDEA
HOW TO GET BACK! DON'T THEY MAKE
AVE A PA
LEAVE
I DON'T HAVE ONE WHAT IF TH
ME GO BACK?
DO I DO? I
DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY EITH
MY GO
AN'T GET
BACK? I DON'T KNOW VIETNAM
AT
GES I
MEAN I TOOK SPANISH ONCE BUT
SPEAK ENGLISH, IS IT COMMON
HOW
DO YOU SAY "I CAN'T SPEAK
THOSE
SCIENTISTS OR THEIR DEMO
TER ME
DO I DO??


YOU HAVE IDEA HOW YOU GOT HERE?
I MEAN... WE *FLEW IN*, I GUESS. BUT I DIDN'T THINK WE'D GONE SO FAR.
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO GET BACK?
THERE'S AN AMERICAN EMBASSY A FEW TOWNS OVER. I CAN TAKE YOU THERE IN THE MORNING.
MY MUM SAYS YOU CAN STAY HERE TONIGHT.
REALLY? *THANK YOU!!*
NO PROBLEM, I WAS PLANNING TO HEAD OUT THAT WAY ANYWAY.
MAYBE I'M FINALLY STARTING TO HAVE SOME GOOD LUCK!
OF ALL THE PLACES I COULD HAVE ENDED UP, I'M PRETTY CLOSE TO WHERE I NEED TO BE!
MY GUIDING YOU HERE WAS NEITHER COINCIDENTAL NOR INFLUENCED BY SUPERNATURAL FORCES, HOWEVER YOU WISH TO INTERPRET--
SHUT UP.
WHAT'D YOU SAY?
UH, THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HELP!


OKAY, SO I GUESS JUST TELL THEM WHAT HAPPENED AND THEY'LL SEND ME BACK TO THE U.S.?
BETTER TO NOT GIVE TOO MUCH INFORMATION. ONLY WHAT IS NECESSARY.
ANYTHING EXTRA MAY CAUSE MORE QUESTIONS, WHICH COULD LEAVE TO DETAINMENT IF THEY DECIDE YOU ARE AN UNUSUAL CASE.
YEAH, YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT.
NOT LIKE THEY'D BELIEVE EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED, ANYWAY.
OFFERING THE WHOLE STORY WOULD BE TOO MUCH INFORMATION.
I HEARD YOU THE FIRST TIME, PAL.

HOW DID YOU GET HERE?
I'M... NOT REALLY SURE. I WAS TOLD WE WERE FLYING TO FLORIDA, BUT WE ENDED UP HERE.
WHO'S "WE?"
ME AND, UH... MY MOTHER.
LOOKS LIKE HIS FATHER DIED A COUPLE MONTHS AGO.
HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE IN CUSTODY OF HIS MOTHER, BUT I CAN'T FIND ANY PERSONAL INFO ON HER - NO ADDRESSES OR ANYTHING.
YOU SAYING YOUR PLANE WAS HI-JACKED?
NO, THEY LIED TO ME--
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR MOTHER? WHY AREN'T YOU WITH HER?
I--
THAT IS ENOUGH QUESTIONING.
PRESSURE THEM TO MEET YOUR DEMANDS.
I DON'T KNOW AND IT DOESN'T MATTER! I NEVER HAD A PASSPORT TO BEGIN WITH, I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO BE HERE!
FORGET HER, YOU HAVE TO SEND ME BACK!


IF YOUR MOTHER'S HERE ILLEGALLY, WE'LL NEED TO FIND HER TOO--
FIND HER ON *YOUR* TIME, NOT *MINE*.
JUST PROCESS THIS KID. IF WE FIND HIS MOM LATER, WE CAN ALWAYS POINT HER TO HIM.
HE NEEDS TO GO BACK ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, ANYWHO.
"YOU'RE RIGHT, TERRY, WE'LL GET YOU TAKEN CARE OF."
"YOU HAVE ANY OTHER FAMILY YOU CAN STAY WITH?"
Enjoy ya Flight!
LOCAL TIME: 6:34 P.M.
"MY UNCLE, CHARLIE BREYKEN."
"WELL HANG ON AND WE'LL SEE IF WE CAN'T GET YOU WHERE YOU NEED TO GO."

THIS LOOKS RIGHT! NOW I JUST NEED TO FIND CHARLIE'S HOUSE.
I HAVE RUN A SEARCH FOR CHARLIE BREYKEN BUT HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO FIND AN ADDRESS.
I HAVE HIS ADDRESS, AND I THINK I REMEMBER WHERE IT IS ANYWAY.
I USED TO LIVE IN THIS TOWN WHEN I WAS LITTLE.
Flatbrook Airport
CUH CAW!!
CAW!
A PUBLIC DISPLAY OF YOUR POWERS MAY NOT BE WISE IF YOUR INTENTION IS TO--
HEY ALPHABET SOUP, DO YOU EVER FUCK OFF?
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND YOUR QUERY.
JESUS, FORGET IT.

THIS IS THE NEIGHBORHOOD.
I FORGOT WHAT A NICE PLACE CHARLIE HAS, THESE PROPERTIES ARE ALL HUGE.
IT SHOULD BE...
AROUND HERE SOMEWH--
YOU ARE CERTAIN THIS IS THE CORRECT ABODE?
I CAN'T REMEMBER FOR SURE, BUT...
IF I HAD TO GUESS, THIS WOULD BE IT.
BEWARE OF DOG

I THOUGHT AH TOLD YOU DUMB KIDS AH DON'T AVE ANYMORE A 'AT SHIT
WUH?
I CAIN'T SELL 'T NO MORE. COPS'S WATCHIN ME TOO CLOSE.
GO SOMEWEYRES ELSE
SLAM!
CHARLIE, IT'S MEI TERRY!
YOUR NEPHEW!!

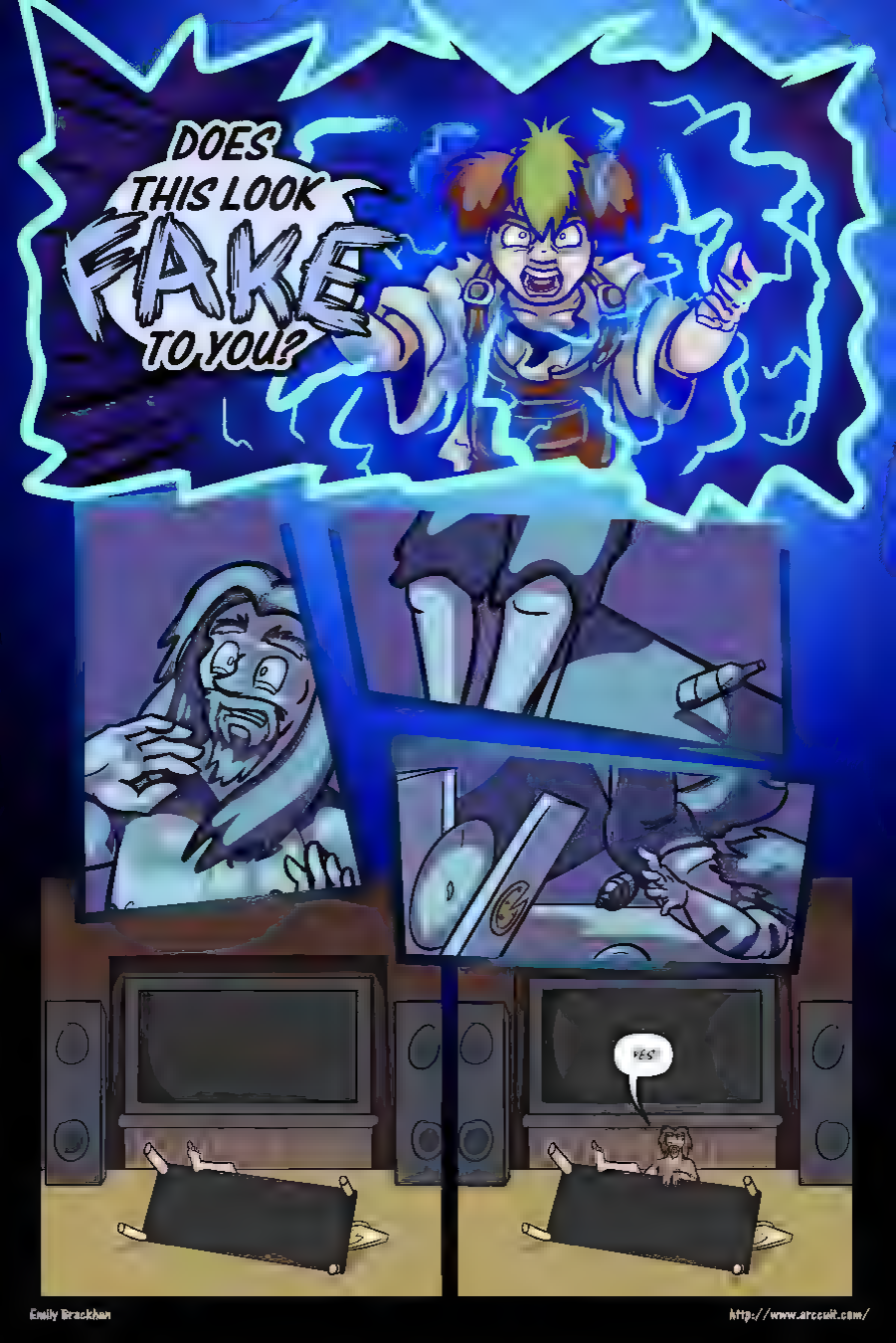
TERRY?!
AHAH
HAHA
HAHA
HA
HAHA
HA
HAHA
WHAT'D YAH DO TO YER HEAD?!
YA GET LOST'N A KETCHUP N' MUSTARD FACTORY OR SOMETIN?
BAHA-HAH
STICK YER HEAD IN A PAINTCAN OR ARE YEH TRYIN' OUT TA BE A CIRCUS CLOWN?
AHAHA
CHARLIE -
WAIT, WAIT! EVEN BETTAH!
YA LOOK LIKE TH' UNGODLY CHILD O' RONALD MCDONALD AN' ROGER RABBIT
ARE YOU DONE?
FER NOW

PLEASE TELL ME THAT AIN'T A WIG
IT ISN'T
AHA HA
OH CUT IT OUT CHARLIE
I CAIN'T BELIEVE YER DAD ACTLY LET YEH DO AT TER YERSELF
I DIDN'T--
WAIT, YOU DON'T KNOW?
KNOW WHAT?
MY DAD'S DEAD
DEAD?
THAT SHIT AIN'T FUNNY TERRY

HOW HAVE YOU NOT HEARD ABOUT THIS? DIDN'T SOMEONE CALL YOU?
WHERE'D DAVE PARK? THIS IS A BIT MUCH FOR A BAD JOKE
I'M NOT KIDDING CHARLIE
MY MOM SHOWED UP ONE NIGHT AND SHE KILLED HIM AND TOOK ME TO FLORIDA BUT IT WAS REALLY VIETNAM AND THEY HAD THESE ELECTRIC NEEDLES AND TRIED TO CRUSH ME AND THERE WERE THESE DOGS AND THEY MADE ME KILL THE NICE ONES AND THE OTHER ONES WERE AWFUL DEMONS THAT WERE TRYING TO EAT ME AND--
IT'S NOT A JOKE! HE'S DEAD. HE'S REALLY DEAD!
EY. EY. CALM DOWN, KID JUS' COME INSIDE, AH'RIGHT? YER OKAY NOW

SO THIS MICHAEL GUY GOT YOU OUT OKAY?
NO. THE CUFFS DIDN'T UNLOCK LIKE HE SAID.
HOW'D YA GET OUT THEN?
I
..I FIGURED OUT HOW TO BREAK THEM. ON MY OWN.
AN' THAT WORKED?
I THINK I GOT LUCKY. THE DOGS WERE OUT, BUT I GOT AWAY.
I DIDN'T FINISH THE PLAN... SO I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE GUYS HELPING ME.
WELL FUCK 'EM. THEY WAITED TOO LONG T' BE THE GOOD GUYS.
BUT ANYWAY, LE'S GO O'ER THIS AGAIN REAL QUICK...
YER MUM'S A FUCKIN' CRAZY-ASS DOCTOR, SHE KILLED DAVID AND MADE YEH SPEND TH' LAST MONTH LOCKED UP IN SOME SWEATSHOP IN CHINA--
IT WAS A LAB IN VIETNAM.
THA'S WHAT AH SAID, DON INTERRUP' ME
AH KINW YER SOME KINNA SUPAHERO
I NEVER SAID THAT
BUT AH CAN HEAR YA THINKIN' IT FROM 'ERE
NOW LOOK, AH GET YEH'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT LATELY 'ER SOM'THIN' LIKE THAT.
IT'S AN INTRESTIN' STORY AN' ALL, BUT A BIT ROUGH 'ROUND THE EDGES, IF YA GET WHAT AHM SAYIN'.
SOME WOULD EVEN CALL IT "BULLSHIT." NOT ME THOUGH, CAUSE I GOT MORE CLASS THAN 'AT

YA SURE YEH DIDN HIT YER HEAD, OR YEH AIN'T HIGH?
CAUSE THAT WOULD MAKE MORE SENSE.
I'M NOT HIGH
THEN AH GOTTA CALL YER BLUFF
I'M NOT LYING! I KNOW IT SOUNDS WEIRD, BUT--
WEIRD? THIS IS A FUCKIN' FAIRY TALE, KID.
WHAT'S WEIRD IS YA SAY THIS PSYCHO-BITCH KILLED YER DAD AN' TORTURED YA FOR A MONTH, THEN YA DON'T TEAR HER APART WHEN YEH FINE'LY GOT 'ER IN A SLEEPER HOLD
I WAS TRYING TO USE HER AS LEVERAGE SO THEY'D TAKE ME HERE!
OH, RIGHT! SO WHEN THEY AGREE AN' YA DROP 'ER, THEN THEY COUL' JUS' DRUG YEH UP AN' KNOCK YEH OUT AGAIN?
OR WERE YA GONN' HOLD 'ER NECK TH' WHOLE WAY BACK?
IF THAT BIT'S TRUE, YER A FUCKIN' IDIOT BUT NO WAY IN HELL THE REST O THAT SHIT HAPPENED
YER DAD PUT YA UP TA THIS TO TRY AN GET MY MONEY, DIDN' HE?
WHAT? NO!
HOW STUPID YOU TWO THINK I AM?
GIVE UP, I WANNA KNOW WHY DAVID DROPPED YA OFF HERE WITH THIS FAKE STORY!


DOES THIS LOOK FAKE TO YOU?
YES!

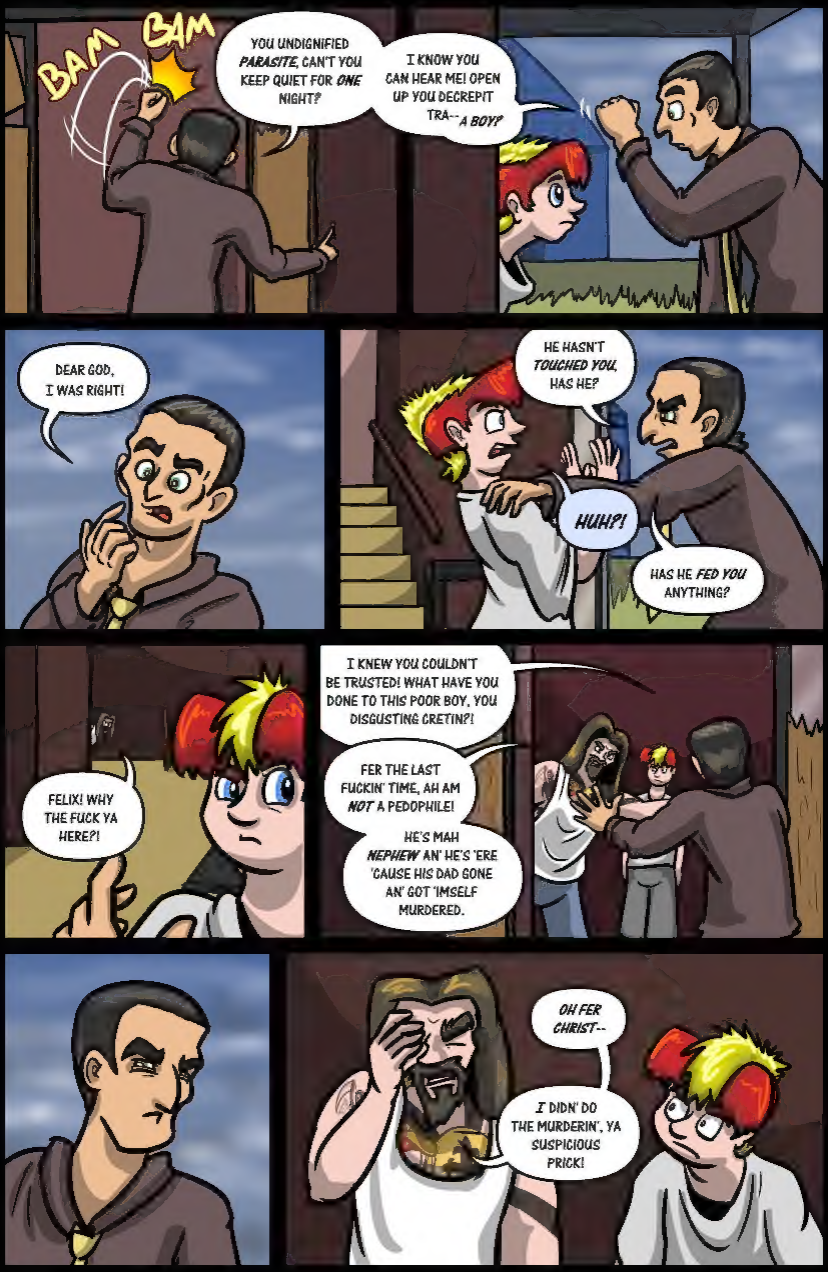
IT LOOKS COMPLETELY FAKE!
FANCY LIGHT SHOW YA GOT 'DERE, BUCK, BUT YEH AIN'T FOOLIN' ME!
NOW, IF YOU'LL SCUSE ME,
I HAVE SHAT MYSELF FO' REASONS UNRELATED TO OUR CONV'SATION AN' NEED T'CLEAN UP
THEY'S A GUEST ROOM UPSTAIRS.
CONSIDER IT YERS.

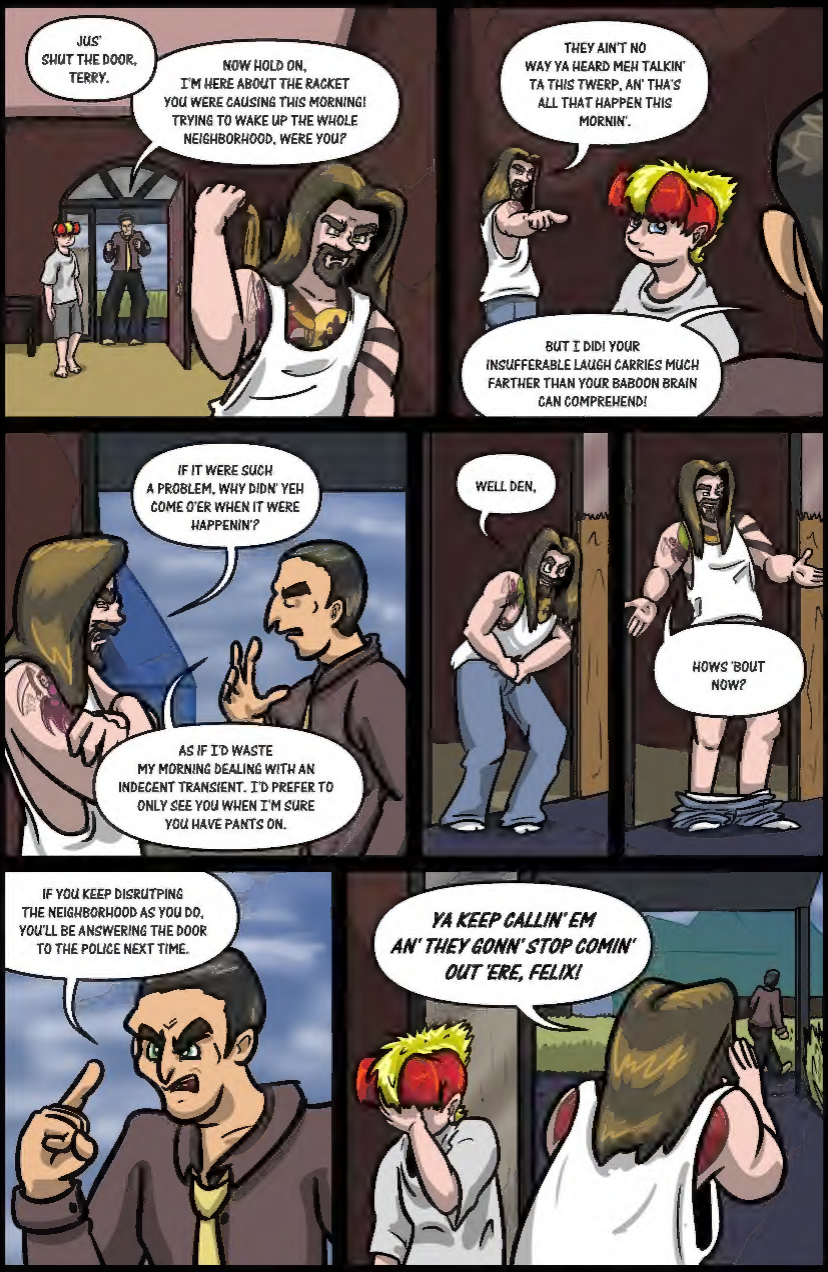
KNOCK KNOCK
YO TERR, WAKE UP
AHM SORRY AH GAVE YA SHIT. EVEN IF YEH WERE ON CRACK AN' IMAGINED THE WHOLE THANG, IT'S OBVIOUS YE'VE STILL HAD A ROUGH TIME.
IF YER GONN' STAY HERE, THOUGH, THEY'S A FEW THINGS THAT GOTTA BE CLEAR.
ONE, I *AIN'T* YER *DAD*. SO WHATE'ER YEH THINK THIS DEAL HERE IS, I AIN'T DOIN' ANY *PARENTIN'* CRAP.
SO YEH CAN CRASH 'ERE, BUT I AIN'T *HUGGIN'* YEH OR 'AT SHIT
TWO, I DUN LIKE KIDS, AN I DUN LIKE ANYONE MESSIN' UP WHAT AH DO. SO YEH GOTTA MAKE SURE YER NOT IN MAH WAY

YA GRADUATED?
NO.
THEN YA GO TO SCHOOL, OR YEH DROP OUT AN' GET A JOB. I DUN CARE WHICH.
BUT AH AIN'T PAYIN' FER NOTHING, SO UNLESS YER SOME KINNA GENIUS WIT' TONS A SCHOLARSHIPS, COLLEGE AIN'T HAPPENING.
AN' THREE. YOU *EVAH* TRY AN' SCARE ME WIT' THAT *SPARKLER SHIT* AGAIN, AND YER ASS IS *OUT*
I DUN CARE IF YEH HAVE T'EAT YER *SHOES* T'GET BY. IF I CAIN'T TRUST YEH IN MY HOUSE, YEH AIN'T WELCOME
BUT UT'ERWISE. YEH CAN STAY 'ERE AS LONG AS YEH NEED. LONG AS IT AIN'T F'REVER. AN' AH GUESS YEH CAN HAVE SOME O' MAH FOOD, TOO.
THANKS, CHARLIE
EH. IT'S WHATEVER. I PRO'LLY OWE IT TO DAVID T'HELP YEH. OR HE'LL *HAUNT* ME 'R SOME SHIT
YEH HUNGRY? AH PICKED UP SOME FOOD
NOT REALLY. JUST... TIRED? I DON'T KNOW
THA'S FINE. TAKE WHATEVAH TIME YEH NEED.

CHARLIE..
EH?
I REMEMBERED SOMETHING, FROM THE NIGHT MY MO--
...[illegible] SHOWED UP
DAD WAS TALKING TO HER, AND THEY MENTIONED YOU
WHAT ABOUT ME?
IT SOUNDED LIKE SHE... DID SOMETHING TO YOU?
I THINK DAD MIGHT HAVE KNOWN WHAT SHE WAS PLANNING FOR ME, BUT
IT'S BECAUSE SHE DID IT TO *YOU* FIRST
I MEAN THAT'S WHAT I *HEARD*.
COULDN' SAY I AIN'T EVER MET'CHER MOTHER, TERRY.
ANYWAY, COME DOWNSTAIRS IF YEH GIT HUNGRY. 'ER JUS' SLEEP IF THA'S WHAT YEH WANT

EUGH. THIS IS WORSE THAN I THOUGHT...
I HAVEN'T SEEN MY REFLECTION SINCE THAT AWFUL TEST AT THE LAB.
NOW HOW DO I EVEN FIX THIS?
CUT THE RED THINGS FIRST... OR WOULD IT BE BETTER TO JUST TRIM THEM?
WOULD IT LOOK WORSE TO JUST HAVE THE 'HAWK?
...THESE COLORS STILL AREN'T GOING TO WORK, THOUGH.
MAYBE CHARLIE HAS A RAZOR SOMEWHERE
CHAR--
DING DONG KNOCK
DING DONG KNOCK
KNOCK KNOCK
DING


BAM BAM
YOU UNDIGNIFIED *PARASITE*, CAN'T YOU KEEP QUIET FOR *ONE* NIGHT?
I KNOW YOU CAN HEAR ME! OPEN UP YOU DECREPIT TRA--- *A BOY?*
DEAR GOD, I WAS RIGHT!
HE HASN'T *TOUCHED YOU*, HAS HE?
HUH?!
HAS HE *FED YOU* ANYTHING?
FELIX! WHY THE FUCK YA HERE?!
I KNEW YOU COULDN'T BE TRUSTED! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO THIS POOR BOY, YOU DISGUSTING CRETIN?!
FER THE LAST FUCKIN' TIME, AH AM *NOT* A PEDOPHILE!
HE'S MAH *NEPHEW* AN' HE'S 'ERE 'CAUSE HIS DAD GONE AN' GOT 'IMSELF MURDERED.
OH FER CHRIST---
I DIDN' DO THE MURDERIN', YA SUSPICIOUS PRICK!


JUS' SHUT THE DOOR, TERRY.
NOW HOLD ON, I'M HERE ABOUT THE RACKET YOU WERE CAUSING THIS MORNING! TRYING TO WAKE UP THE WHOLE NEIGHBORHOOD, WERE YOU?
THEY AIN'T NO WAY YA HEARD MEH TALKIN' TA THIS TWERP, AN' THA'S ALL THAT HAPPEN THIS MORNIN'.
BUT I DID! YOUR INSUFFERABLE LAUGH CARRIES MUCH FARTHER THAN YOUR BABOON BRAIN CAN COMPREHEND!
IF IT WERE SUCH A PROBLEM, WHY DIDN' YEH COME O'ER WHEN IT WERE HAPPENIN'?
AS IF I'D WASTE MY MORNING DEALING WITH AN INDECENT TRANSIENT. I'D PREFER TO ONLY SEE YOU WHEN I'M SURE YOU HAVE PANTS ON.
WELL DEN,
HOWS 'BOUT NOW?
IF YOU KEEP DISRUTPING THE NEIGHBORHOOD AS YOU DO, YOU'LL BE ANSWERING THE DOOR TO THE POLICE NEXT TIME.
YA KEEP CALLIN' EM AN' THEY GONN' STOP COMIN' OUT 'ERE, FELIX!

SO... YOUR NEIGHBOR?
FELIX. THINKS 'E'S BETTAH THAN ME 'CAUSE HE OWNS A FANCY-PANTSY BUSINESS SELLIN' LADY CLOTHES.
BUT E'RY ASSHOLE ON THIS BLOCK'S LIKE 'AT, SO HE AIN'T SPECIAL.
HE'S PISSED AH LIVE 'ERE NEXT TA HIM JUS' 'CAUSE AH WON THE LOTTERY A WHILE BACK, SO AH NEVER LOST MAH DIGNITY KISSIN' ASSES AN' GIVIN' HANDJOBS T'GIT NICE SHIT.
HIS KIND AIN'T WORTH NOBODY'S TIME, AN' THIS BLOCK'S FULL-A SHITS LIKE 'IM. FUCK TH' WHOLE LOTTA 'EM.
OH, WAIT! I WAS GONNA ASK IF YOU HAD A RAZOR.
DO AH LOOK LIKE AH SHAVE?
WHAT YEH NEED A RAZOR FER? YA AIN'T A MAN.
NAH! YA SHOULD KEEP IT!
'R AT LEAST LEMME GIT SOME PITURES FIRST.
NO!
EY, AH KNOW IT'S LIKE, TRAUMATIC AN' ALL WIT' WHAT YEH WENT THROUGH, BUT THIS IS TOO DAMN FUNNY NOT T'KEEP A PHOTO OF.
END

CHAPTER 7 BONUS PAGE
SO WHAT'S UP WITH YOUR YARD?
THA'S FER THEM ASSHOLES 'ROUND HERE. THINK THEY CAN TELL ME HOW T'TAKE CARE O' MAH PROP'TY, SO AH FUCKED IT UP INSTEAD.
AT LEAST THE INSIDE LOOKS... DECENT.
I AIN'T A ANIMAL, BOY. AH KNOW HOWS AH WANNA LIVE.
I HAD A MAID GIRL, SHE JUS' QUIT A FEW DAYS AGO. THOUGH, SOMTHIN' 'BOUT A... SEXUAL HARASSMENT LAWSUIT?
...NAH, THA' WAS THE ONE B'FORE. JUS' A RESTRAININ' ORDER THIS TIME.
ANYWAY, SHE GONE. BUT LUCKY FER ME, PER HERE NOW! HOPE YEH KNOW HOW T'COOK.
HOW ABOUT FUCK YOU.
THEN HOWS 'BOUT YOU GO EAT OUTTA THE TRASH BEHIND THE TITTY BAR INSTEAD, KID?
IF YOU HAD A MAID, THEN WHY DOES MY ROOM LOOK LIKE NO ONE'S CLEANED IT IN TEN YEARS?
OH, SHE WEREN'T ALLOWED IN D'ERE, 'CAUSE OF THE--
-TTHG-
YOU AIN'T BEEN IN THE CLOSET, HAVE YA?
NO--
DUN COME UPSTAIRS!
AH JUS'--
AH JUST GONNA MOVE SOMETHIN' IS ALL! DUN COME UP HERE 'TIL AH DO!